

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is a grossly abusive action in which defiles the meaning "free speech." Free speech is the right to be informed and to speak out or on anything you wish...It does not at any time mean that you can abuse that right by using public airways that you are not paying for to air propaganda disguised as truth. This is misleading to the consumers and not in the interest of its public viewers. What Sinclair intends to do is irresponsable and dangerous, not to mention illegal. This is my voice pleading Sinclair be not only stopped but reprimanded for this intended abuse.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.